

Message Text

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SUBJ: FINN GUNDELACH ON EC PROBLEMS

1. IN A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE AIMED AT A DANISH AUDIENCE,
EC COMMISSIONER FINN GUNDELACH SEES THE EC FACING TWO
MAJOR PROBLEMS AS DENMARK BEGINS ITS PRESIDENCY: FALTER-
ING EC COOPERATION ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND THE INTERNAL
NORTH-SOUTH SCHISM IN THE EC THAT IS CURRENTLY HIGHLIGHTED
BY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS FROM GREECE, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

2. RE ECONOMIC COOPERATION, GUNDELACH DESCRIBES THE
FAILURE OF THE EC TO PREVENT UNEMPLOYMENT FOR SEVERAL
YEARS OF OVER SIX MILLION PEOPLE AS SHAMEFUL. HE CAUTIONS
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS, HOWEVER, NOT TO UNDERTAKE UNILATERAL
STIMULATIVE PROGRAMS BOTH BECAUSE THEY INEVITABLY HAVE AN
IMPACT ON OTHER MEMBERS AND BECAUSE NONE OF THE EC COUNTRIES
"HAS THE KIND OF ECONOMIC STRENGTH THAT WOULD PERMIT
IT TO INSTITUTE A PROGRAM OF FULL EMPLOYMENT IN
ISOLATION."

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3. CALLING ENLARGEMENT TO INCLUDE GREECE, SPAIN AND
PORTUGAL AS THE GREATEST CHALLENGE TO THE EC OUTSIDE
THE STRICTLY ECONOMIC SPHERE, GUNDELACH PREDICTS THAT
ENTRY NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE SUCCESSFUL, ALTHOUGH THE
THREE WILL NEED A LONG TRANSITION PERIOD TO ADJUST TO
EC REQUIREMENTS. HE REJECTS THE IDEA OF ANY ARRANGE-
MENTS PROVIDING FOR LESS THAN FULL MEMBERSHIP, INASMUCH

AS THE THREE APPLICANT COUNTRIES DO NOT WANT THAT.

4. WITH RESPECT TO THE ECONOMIC DISPARITY BETWEEN NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN MEMBERS OF THE EC, GUNDELACH STATES THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO MARKED EQUALIZATION BETWEEN THE RICH NORTHERN REGIONS AND "THE MORE BACKWARD REGIONS AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN." ASSERTING THAT AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE SOUTH WILL NOT ALONE CORRECT THIS SITUATION, HE SEES AS THE ONLY SOLUTION A LARGE TRANSFER OF RESOURCES--BOTH MONEY AND KNOW HOW--FROM NORTH TO SOUTH. GIVEN THE GREAT ADVANTAGES THAT THE NORTHERN REGIONS DERIVE FROM BOTH THE EC'S AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL POLICIES, THEY SHOULD, HE BELIEVES, BE WILLING TO FOOT THE BILL.

5. COMMENT: WHILE GUNDELACH'S ARTICLE EMPHASIZES PROBLEMS, ITS TONE IS NEVERTHELESS POSITIVE. ALTHOUGH CALLING PROGRESS ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION DISAPPOINTING, IN LARGE PART BECAUSE OF THE GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION, GUNDELACH ALSO STRESSES THAT ADVANCES HAVE BEEN MADE; E.G., CONSOLIDATION OF THE FREE MARKET FOR INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL GOODS AND INTENSIFICATION OF A JOINTLY FINANCED REGIONAL POLICY. GUNDELACH ALSO EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE IN DENMARK'S ABILITY AS EC PRESIDENT TO PROMOTE THE UNITY NECESSARY FOR EC PROBLEM-SOLVING.

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6. AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE COMPLETE ARTICLE, WHICH APPEARED IN THE LABOR NEWSPAPER AKTUELT ON JANUARY 19, IS BEING TRANSMITTED BY AIRGRAM.
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